



CASA of Yuma County
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CASAofYumaCounty.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASA of Yuma County honors grandparent caregivers

(Yuma, AZ) On September 12th, grandparents around the nation will be honored for all the love and support they give to children in their lives. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Yuma County would like to especially honor the grandparents in our community who have taken their grandchildren who have experienced abuse and/or neglect into their homes.

In Arizona, 51 percent of youth in foster care are living with a kinship relative, either a blood relative or an adult with whom the child has a significant relationship, according to the FY20 Department of Child Safety Annual Report. Many of these kinship care providers include grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren while there is an open dependency case, meaning the children were removed from their home due to abuse and/or neglect. Appropriate kinship placement allows the children to live with family so they do not have to be uprooted and moved into an unfamiliar foster or group home.

For the thousands of children in unlicensed kinship care placements, the monthly reimbursement is only \$75. While the state provides many services to kinship caregivers, especially those who get licensed, many are taken by surprise and are unsure where they can turn for support.

This is where having a CASA can be a benefit to the family. Often times, CASA volunteers are the only unpaid professional on the case; they are able to focus on one case at a time. Case managers, therapists, and attorneys have multiple children on their caseload making it difficult to spend as much time on one family. The CASA volunteer visits the child monthly and reports back to the judge with what's happening in the case and gives their recommendations for moving forward. A CASA volunteer's unique outsider perspective helps them effectively advocate for the best interests of the child.

CASA volunteers are everyday community members who volunteer their time to advocate for children's best interests while they are in the foster care system. When children are living with a grandparent, CASA advocates are often able to connect them with the support and services available in the area to better provide for their grandchildren.

This Grandparents Day, CASA of Yuma County encourages everyone to honor the caregivers in their life by volunteering to help a child in need. For more information on the CASA Program visit CASAofYumaCounty.org or call 928-314-1830.



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